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No. 10

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MCCLINTOCK).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 25, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM MCCLINTOCK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

TIME TO REDUCE SPENDING TO THE 2008 LEVELS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) for 1 minute.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this week the House will consider House Resolution 38, which promotes a reduction of current spending to the 2008 levels or less for the remainder of the fiscal year. This legislation seeks to cure the illness in Washington known as runaway spending.

For the past 4 years, liberals in Washington have been on a spending

spree that has not only resulted in a loss of jobs, but also historic deficits. This job-destroying agenda is not sound policy for Americans today, and it burdens future generations of Americans with crushing debt.

Last week the House took steps to repeal and replace the job-killing government takeover of health care. The NFIB, the National Federation of Independent Business, the largest organization in the United States of small businesses, reports that that will put 1.6 million jobs at risk. Now we must focus our attention on limiting spending levels.

Currently, our national deficit stands at \$14 trillion. Saddling future generations with today's debt is not the solution. The time has come to implement spending reforms to ensure we cut spending. The American people in November spoke clearly for fiscal responsibility. The tea party has made a difference—taxed enough already.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM RATCHFORD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. It is with heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to the life of former Congressman William R. Ratchford, whom we lost earlier this year after a long and courageous battle with Parkinson's disease.

I talked to many friends and colleagues of Bill in recent days, and the same description kept coming up. He was modest and charming and exactly who he appeared to be. One long-time friend called him "the most fundamentally decent, unpretentious person." Another, former Senator Chris Dodd, reminded me of Bill's decency and great warmth. "He was wonderfully enthusiastic about other people's successes," Chris said, which is sadly

atypical of people in our line of business.

For that and so many other reasons, Bill was a role model to me and the rest of our delegation. He was a humble giant in Connecticut politics, well liked and respected by all, and he will be deeply missed by all those fortunate enough to have known him.

When I came to represent much of the Naugatuck Valley in 2000, Bill personally took me town by town. He knew everyone and everyone knew him. There was a mutual respect and fondness there that I have always tried to live up to ever since. Bill just had that effect on people. He was funny, kind, and down to Earth. As a humble son of a hat factory worker and a teacher, he never forgot where he came from. He understood his constituents' needs and concerns because their concerns were his. He walked in their shoes.

During 12 years in the State house, four as speaker, and three terms in the Congress, Bill focused on the needs of children and seniors, on improving public education, helping nontraditional and mid-career students go to college, and ensuring that all seniors could enjoy retirement with the health and dignity they deserve.

More than anything, Bill tried to make a difference in everything he did. In doing so, he left an indelible mark on our State and this institution. I extend my deepest sympathies to his wife, Barbara, and their three children, Shaun, Scott, and Brian, and his grandchildren. He was an extraordinary individual, and he leaves a legacy to which we should all aspire.

I yield to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY).

Mr. COURTNEY. Thank you, Congresswoman DELAURO.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to associate my remarks with Congresswoman DELAURO's eloquence. Bill Ratchford was a giant in Connecticut politics. He

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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served as Speaker of the House in the State legislature. As a former State legislator myself, I saw firsthand the legacy that he left behind in terms of a civil but progressive agenda that he advanced in the State of Connecticut, which, as a Member of Congress for three terms, he continued that work, again, particularly focusing on the emerging issues of the aging in our country, which as a demographic is growing. He was really just someone with great vision in terms of the need to make sure that we had a society that was prepared to deal with those issues.

Mr. Speaker, as we grapple with the challenge of civil discourse in our democracy, Bill Ratchford, in my opinion, is the perfect, almost iconic example of what a legislator and a public servant ought to be. He cared deeply about the issues that he campaigned and advocated for, but he also was someone who studiously respected his opposition and believed passionately in civil discourse and debate. Again, I think that legacy, probably above all, is the most powerful one that he leaves behind us; and, frankly, we would all do well to follow his outstanding example.

TIME FOR FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GRAVES) for 2 minutes.

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, early reports indicate that President Obama will call for a new spending package during his State of the Union address tonight. Now, I have heard, as many of you have, that this might be masked, as he might say tonight, as targeted investments. More stimulus. Democrats speak for stimulus, but it will be hidden with calls for tepid spending cuts.

Well, Mr. Speaker, Americans know that our debt is \$14 trillion. They know that the President spent \$1.3 trillion over the budget last year, only to see unemployment stay above 9 percent. Now is the time to pivot to fiscal responsibility. It's time to shred the President's maxed-out credit cards and cut his weekly allowance. It's time to tell our kids and grandkids that we don't want them to bear the burden of our generation's fiscal irresponsibility.

Mr. Speaker, I, along with my constituents in north Georgia, hope that the early reports are wrong about another stimulus being proposed tonight. Rather than use a few spending cuts as window dressing for more spending, tonight is the President's opportunity to seize the moment, to be a leader, and get serious about spending reform.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM RATCHFORD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise, as did other Members of the Connecticut delegation, to pay tribute to a great man who served the State of Connecticut and his community of Danbury in a variety of ways, Bill Ratchford.

Bill Ratchford passed away recently, and the entire State of Connecticut is mourning; but, in particular, my district is mourning. Though Connecticut's districts have been reconfigured over the years, we both share a love and affinity for Bill Ratchford's hometown of Danbury that he represented in the United States Congress and I have the great fortune of representing.

Bill grew up in Danbury. He was a child of the Depression. His father worked in one of the great hat factories in Danbury, Connecticut. His mother was a school teacher. And they instilled in Bill the value of what truly matters in life: a good education, a love for his family, and a love for his country.

Shortly after I was sworn into office, Bill came to see me, to share with me some of his thoughts about what was important about being in this place.

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Though he cared so passionately about issues, as Representative COURTNEY and Representative DELAURO mentioned, his passion especially for issues related to aging, the fact that he became, later on, the State's first commissioner on aging, what he cared maybe most about was the discourse in this place. Bill was a gentleman first, second, and third. He represented everything that people wanted government to be.

That's what we talked about when he came into my office that day, how you needed to fight for what you cared about in this place but do it in a respectful way. And I join with Representative COURTNEY in reminding everyone here that there are certain giants of this place that we can look to in trying to reorder the way in which we have conversations, and Bill Ratchford certainly was at the top of that list.

His commitment to public service built a legacy that in Danbury and throughout Connecticut we will remember for a long time. He will be terribly missed. My thoughts and prayers and those of everyone in the Danbury area are with Barbara and his family at this time.

I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. I thank Congressman MURPHY for yielding, and I want to join him in the remarks that he has made.

I had the opportunity to attend a memorial service and speak at a memorial service for my friend, Bill Ratchford.

Bill and I first met in the early 1970s. Bill had been speaker of the Connecticut House and was serving as president of the National Conference of State Legislatures. I was about to be president of the Maryland Senate, and

another former Member, Martin Sabo, was the speaker of the Minnesota House. The three of us became very good friends.

Later in the week, the next week, we lost an extraordinary American, Sarge Shriver. I had the opportunity to speak at his wake last Friday night.

The reason I mentioned Sarge Shriver, Bill Ratchford and Sarge Shriver were both extraordinary public servants who believed that service to others was their most important role in life in terms of their public service. Now, privately, they were both also representatives of extraordinary family leaders, revered by their families. And his sons, Bill Ratchford's sons, and Sarge's sons spoke at their memorial services. Shaun, Scott, and Brian spoke movingly of a father who was fully engaged and adored by his sons. Of course his wife, Barbara, a very close friend of mine for some 40 years, as was Bill, was revered as a mother.

So these two families, two extraordinary leaders that we have lost recently, represented the best in America.

Bill Ratchford was my friend. Bill Ratchford brought honor on this institution by his service. Bill and I had the opportunity to serve on the Appropriations Committee together, which was arguably, at that point in time, the most bipartisan committee in the Congress of the United States. I am not sure that's still true, but it certainly was then. Bill Ratchford was respected on both sides of the aisle for his decency, his intellect, and his commitment to making America a better country.

I am pleased to join my friend CHRIS MURPHY, who has been such a giant himself at a young age, but at an age when Bill Ratchford was becoming a major leader in their country.

I thank Bill Ratchford and his family for what they have contributed to this country. We lament his loss, but we celebrate his life, which was an extraordinary life well lived and a blessing to all who knew him and to his country.

STATE OF OUR UNION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN) for 2 minutes.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak today.

This evening, we will hear from the President of the United States in his State of the Union address, and it is a privilege for the people of our country to be able to hear from our President what his remarks are about the State of our Union.

We look forward to hearing, Mr. Speaker, what the President's plan will be going forward to lift our country out of the high unemployment rates that we have been dealing with during these last 20 months. To have the unemployment rate in excess of 9 percent